Attaching Crown Molding to a Cabinet - The Spline Method

by Jim Shaver

This method was passed to me by my good friend KC Constable in Texas. He demonstrated that attaching crown molding to a cabinet using a spline helps with alignment and adds greatly to the strength of the glue joint!

First I cut a groove in the back of the crown, along the lower back of the molding.

I do this on a table saw using a secondary fence and my dado blade to cut a ¼” wide groove to match a spline I cut from hardwood stock. The spline is about ¾” wide.

I match the cut for the mating surface on the cabinet with a ¼” spiral bit in my router. I set up a fence on the case work and run a groove along the sides and the face to accept the spline.

I then cut and glue my spline into the case and attach the crown molding to the spline. Perfect alignment.

Next come support blocks on the back of the crown every 6-8” using only glue.